

Cemeteries

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Duxbury Clipper, Thursday, July 29, 1982

A History of Our Four Municipal Cemeteries

One of the Old Burying Ground, the Standish, is on Chestnut St., just out of Hall's Corner, South Duxbury. First burying ground in Duxbury and second in Plymouth County, it was laid out next to the first and later the second meeting house. Captain Myles Standish, John and Priscilla Alden and many other early settlers are buried there.

Dingley Cemetery is a small cemetery in the northern part of town. Ashdod Cemetery is in the western part and Smith tomb at Boomer Square.

Mayflower Cemetery is near the First Parish Church on Tremont St. The Parish was gathered in 1632 by Elder William Brewster and the church was built in 1840, the 4th meeting house and the second on this site. The old hearse house is still by the church in which the hearse was kept and which is now used as a tool house.

The ladies of the Parish formed a Ladies' Union Fair Assn and had fairs to raise money to care for the cemetery and when the last member passed away, they left a Ladies' Union Fair Assn Cemetery Fund of \$1,323.04.

The first grave in this cemetery is that of Stephen Russell in 1787, so the cemetery was established at that time.

The first funeral sermon in Duxbury occurred in the Old Burying Ground. In the early days a corpse was laid away in silence, without prayers of any kind. All that changed in 1697 when the Rev. Ichabod Wiswall preached the first sermon while burying Jonathan Alden, son of the famous John. By 1730, the ceremony had become well established.

Pilgrim Father John Alden, best known for his romance with Priscilla, had another claim to fame. He was the last survivor of the Mayflower passengers, dying in 1687.

In 1893 the town voted that a committee of 5 be appointed to report a plan for the care and government of the cemeteries and to report at the next town meeting. In 1894 the report of that committee was accepted and its recommendation adopted with the amendment that wherever the word "committee" appeared, the word "trustee" be substituted.

Duxbury's Population Close to 3,000 Census Shows

(Taken from the May 1950 issue of the Clipper.)

Although data on the census in Duxbury is still incomplete, indications are that the population of Duxbury is now close to 3,000. Walter Gallagher, the census-taker, said that about 25 of the estimated 3,000 have moved to Duxbury since the first of the year.

The life of a census-taker is more hazardous than is generally believed, says Gallagher. So far it has involved being bitten on the hand by a dog, discussing termite control and other problems with housewives, and getting soaked 3 times, while bicycling from door to door. One person refused to answer certain questions on the census sheet, contending they were too personal. "I also discovered that there were nonexistent houses on my map," Gallagher said.

SALE: Oak wardrobe, desk, chairs; maple dropleaf table, 4 chairs; trunks; floor lamps; card table; folding stepstool; portable stereo. 934-2772. (7/29p)

REWARD: \$50. for return of dark brown Maxi-Puch moped. Grey fender, S.J.F. initials. Taken from beach 7/14/82. Call 934-6189. (7/29p)

FOR SALE: Ladies blue 3 speed Columbia bike. Needs some work. \$25. 934-6189. (7/29p)

FOR SALE: 37" glass lamp, French provincial pecan 2-door cabinet, Victorian gentleman's chair, B&W 19" RCA TV. Call 934-0232. (7/29 p)

YARDSALE: Sat., 7/31/82, 10-4. Household & some baby items. 692 Temple St. (between Templewood and Laurel). (7/29 p)

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TAB curtains. Country tiebacks, draperies, custom made for your home. Call Connie Donaldson 934-2598, 934-5790. (7/29 p)

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GIRL age 15 will do babysitting, housecleaning, pet care; desires occasional or regular work, call Kristin at 934-7951. (7/29; 8/3 p)

CHILD CARE: needed 3 mornings a week for my 6 mos. old & 2-yr. old. Please call 934-0637. (7/29 p)

Around Town

were Thomas Alden, 1 yr; William Alden, 2 yrs; Laurence Bradford, 3 yrs; Elisha Peterson, 4 yrs (undertaker from then until 1925); Samuel Soule, 5 yrs.

The new part of the cemetery was started in 1926. The old part is to the right of the main gate, with a Memorial dedicated to the Civil War dead beside the gate, and on the other side of the main gate, a Memorial dedicated to the men and women who served in the defense of our country, erected in 1964 by the people of Duxbury.

In 1926 a new receiving vault was built at a cost of \$1,998.39.

In 1927 Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Bailey presented to the town the main entrance, made of Quincy granite, a beautiful and generous gift.

In 1927 Lucy Hathaway gave \$2,000. for the new granite post and iron rail fence for the new part of the cemetery.

In 1969 Arthur Eaton, who worked for the Cemetery Department for about 25 years, left a trust fund of \$32,197.62 for the cemetery. Also, the Ladies Union Fair Assn left a fund of \$1,246.76. The Ashdod Cemetery was left the Lucy Ewell Fund and the Lucy Hathaway Fund, with 1/16 for the improvement of the Mayflower Cemetery.

The Mayflower Cemetery was expanded to about 35 acres with about 30 acres undeveloped.

There is a veterans lot with only 3 Civil War veterans buried in it. All the walks that were 6 feet wide were graded and made 4 grave lots at ground level.

In 1887 there were 7 lots in the perpetual care fund. By 1938 the cemetery perpetual care fund totaled \$40,336. Mr. Freeman, the superintendent, with the help of the trustees, added a plan to send out cards and leaflets to the heirs and estates to add to their perpetual care fund.

In 1964 the town built a new office and service building with a superintendent's office, a waiting room, ladies' and men's rooms and a service shop in the rear. A vault for records is in the half basement. The old office is used to store tools.

Lowell Browne of Chestnut St., a life-long resident of Duxbury, turned 74 recently. Though he and his wife Hazel, who turned 74 July 15, don't bother celebrating birthdays any more, Mr. Browne is fond of remembering other milestones in his life. "I built 3 houses in town over the years," he said, "but the one I'm most proud of is the Cape on

Bay Rd., next to the bank. I made that one out of a barn."

Frank and Katherine Kemp of Plantation Drive are parents of their second child, Katherine Quincy. Kate was born June 17 at Quincy Hospital. She joins a sister, Kendra.

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